THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) A total number of 43 compensation cases are still pending with the Government of Myanmar. The Embassy of India has been regularly taking up these cases with the Myanmar authorities. However, it appears that due to financial constraints, the Government of Myanmar is unable to settle these cases.

(d) In the recently concluded bilateral Foreign Office Consultations (November 24-28, 2002), it has been agreed that all pending consular and financial matters will be taken up at the official level. The Government of Myanmar has invited an official delegation to visit Yangon for discussion on the matter. The modalities for the meeting are being worked out.

Indian Consulate at Jalalabad in Afghanistan

2276. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Afgan Government has refused India to open its Consulate at Jalalabad; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to open an office at Jalalabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Missions without Heads

2277. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Indian Missions abroad are without regular heads;

(b) if so, the names of such Missions and since when they are without heads; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to fill up these vacancies without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No. There are six Indian